Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 H-02 SS-15 DHA-05 L-03 NSC-05 JUSE-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /049 W

-----052734 210929Z /13

R 210638Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6208 INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 13278

AMCONSUL MADRAS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC IN

SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE CONSULAR SERVICES

REFS: A. STATE 187731; B. NEW DELHI 13098

1. IN RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL A, I HAVE REVIEWED THE EXTENT OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THIS MISSION AND HAVE DIRECTED THAT THE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND STAFF GIVE PARTICULAR AND SYMPATHETIC ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS AND FEELINGS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN DISTRESS OR DIFFICULTY. THEY ARE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE OF ASSISTANCE WHERE APPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLE. I SHOULD ADD THAT I AM IMPRESSED BOTH BY THE HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICE RENDERED IN THE PAST, AND BY THE WEIGHT AND INTENSITY OF THE DEMANDS EXPERIENCED BY CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

2. IN PROTECTION WORK OUR CONSULATES RECEIVE A STEADY STREAM OF TRAVELERS WHO SUFFER THE GAMUT OF MISFORTUNES, AND IT IS SELDOM THAT AT LEAST SEVERAL AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE NOT HOSPITALIZED AND/OR IN JAIL WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY. ON OCCASION, CONSULAR OFFICERS HAVE EVEN BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND THE TRIAL OF A CITIZEN WHEN REQUESTED BECAUSE OF THE MANY OTHER DEMANDS ON THEIR TIME. AT PRESENT, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR A CONSULAR OFFICER TO BE AWAY FROM HIS OR HER OFFICE FOR ANY EXTENDED PERIOD WITHOUT STOPGAP ASSISTANCE HAVING TO BE FOUND FROM SOME OTHER SECTION OF THE MISSION. BUT

THE NEED OF CONSULAR MOBILITY IS, IN MY VIEW, CERTAIN TO INCREASE IN RESPONSE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC'S RISING EXPECTATION. I AM, THEREFORE, MUCH CONCERNED AT THE PROBABLE DETERIORATION IN THE QUALITY OF SERVICES NOW BEING PROVIDED UNLESS REMEDIAL STEPS CAN BE TAKEN.

3. FOR FURTHER DETAIL PLEASE REFER TO REFTEL B, IN WHICH IT IS EXPLAINED WHY THIS MISSION, HOWEVER WELL IT MAY HAVE DISCHARGED ITS CONSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PAST, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THE HEIGHTENING DEMANDS--IN THE AREAS OF BOTH PROTECTIVE AND VISA SERVICES--WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: POLICIES, CONSULAR SERVICES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 21-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE13278
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770342-1348

Format: TEL From: NEW DELHI Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770939/aaaabgpz.tel

Line Count: 74 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 8f33fd40-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SCS

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 187731, 77 NEW DELHI 13098

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1190325 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PROTECTIVE CONSULAR SERVICES

TAGS: CASC, IN To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f33fd40-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009